**May 2021 Blackhawk Ski Club Newsletter**

**Inaugural Birding Walk a Success!** Our Inaugural Birding Walk was a huge success! Birders young and young at heart observed 34 species and enjoyed a beautiful Spring morning together. Watch for news on the website about a Fall birding walk.



**Summer Maintenace Volunteers Needed** The grass keeps growing, everywhere, even (especially?) at Blackhawk! You can help keep our trails in shape and the mosquito population lower by signing up with Kurt to be trained on the mower or string trimmer or other odds and ends help around the club during the summer. Also looking for someone with carpentry skills to finish door jams and window trim in East Chalet. Kurt.stein@blackhawkskiclub.org

**Vehicle Tags are on the way!** Come out to the club at the West Chalet to pick yours up on one of the following dates or mail us a self-addressed stamped envelope to P.O. Box P.O. Box 628094, Middleton WI 53562-8094 and we will send it to you.

Monday, May 31st from 3-5pm

Tuesday, June 1st from 5-6:30pm

Thursday, June 3rd from 5-6:30pm

Sunday, June 6th from 11am-1pm



**Special Events at Blackhawk**

May 31 **Youth Mtn Bike Lessons** begin. East Chalet, Mon, Tue, Thur 6-7 pm through August. Kelley.linnan@blackhawkskiclub.org

June 6, East Chalet, **Girls Riding Together Event (GRiT),** Session 1, 12pm-2:00pm, Session 2, 2:30pm-4:30pm. NICA coaches organize an annual girls riding event to promote mountain biking. Please part at West Chalet on June 6. kmriching@gmail.com

June 12-13, East Chalet, **Ninja Mountain Bike Clinic**. Three weekends each year Ninja offers clinics. Ridelikeaninja.com

June 19-20, West Chalet, **NICA CPR/FirstFIrst Aid** Training course. Dirk.horne@blackhawkskiclub.org

June 21, Jump Chalet parking lot, 5:30-7:30 **Hiking trail & ecological restoration work party** followed by a sock burning party at Otter Den’s new firepit. What’s a sock burning party you ask? Email Jill.stevenson@blackhawkskiclub.org for details on the event.

June 25-27, Biathlon Range/Haus/adjacent field, **Biathlon Camp** for youth and adults. Email for details: Biathlon@blackhawkskiclub.org

June 26, 9:00-11:00: Blackhawk Composite Pre-Season **Bike Safety Check** - East Chalet. Email for details: dirk.horne@blackhawkskiclub.org



**The results of the 2020-21 Winter Season Member Survey are in!** Aren’t you curious about what your fellow BH club members are stoked on and what they hope improves? Well, keep reading…

**Who we are:** Of respondents, we had ~35% who were first year members and 80% have been members for <5 yrs. We are surely growing! Families make up 69% of the memberships. We love hearing from all our members, but this go-around was focused on winter activities. Thank you summer members and we look forward to hearing from you in the fall!

**What we do:** And we are so diverse in our interests. Our members are loving mountain/fat biking, Nordic and alpine skiing, telemark, biathlon, and ski jumping. But did you know that our member volunteers also worked on new hiking trails, bird watching, and even a story trail this year?

**The fun stuff:** We hear your enthusiasm for the quality and accessibility of the club. The quality of our trails, lessons (and wonderful coaches), snow making and our beautiful chalet were all highlights. The improvements made to the connector trail to Pleasant View is really exciting and opens lots more trails for biking, skiing, and hiking. Our members also are very happy with the options for both competitive and non-competitive sport and the diversity of skill levels served by the club.

**The serious stuff:** There is always room to improve, so your feedback is extremely important in the long-term planning for the club. Obviously, the biggest concern for many was the increased use of the club (both by members and those using the club without joining), which came as no surprise given Covid. This is always a challenge for multi-use facilities, and the Board will be working to address these issues in an equitable, transparent, and fair manner this upcoming year. We also heard that we need to improve communication, and that the number of IT platforms for lessons, communication, and member management is confusing. We are trying to diversify outreach and simplify communication. Anyone who wants to help with this is encouraged to step up! Finally, the continued improvement of the club facilities and trails is of continued interest. More trails, more bathrooms, more maps, more water stations. We hear you.

**What you can do:** Our club is only as good as its volunteers! While our Board and Committees are here to coordinate, it is up to all of us to not only pay our dues but to come out and make it truly a vibrant and healthy recreational experience. So where to start? Here are a few suggestions: read the newsletter (yay you, check!), reach out to the board or committees on how to volunteer, come to work days, or just say hi to your fellow club members when you are out and about.

The Board would like to thank the 234 families/individuals that responded. We look forward to working on these suggestions in our 2021/2022 season.



**Lost and Found**  Many thanks to new board members and bike ambassador Andrea Dlugos for cleaning up the East Chalet! If you have lost something at Blackhawk, please check the table in the chalet between now and May 31. Pictures can be found our on fb page: facebook.com/blackhawkskiclub. Any items left after Memorial Day will be donated.



**Capital Campaign Update** Thank you to all who have made a donation towards our Snowmaking Capital Campaign! We appreciate your generosity and look forward to the first step this summer of drilling the test well. We cannot do this without your support. It is our hope that each member of our club will find a creative way to participate in our campaign for snowmaking. A separate email will be coming in June with more details with how you can help.

**Off-Season Ski Infrastructure** This summer the pole cats installed between hill #2 and the Nordic trail will be equipped with water and electricity. There will be some heavy equipment involved, but should not impact biking and hiking trails. We will also be replacing the tow base at the bottom of Leonard’s Way and hill #6. Metal fabrication for the poles holding the ropes will also be completed this summer, though installation will not occur until next year. Soon all of our tows will be looking (and functioning) as good as the jump tow!

**Club Management Changes** It is with mixed emotions that we announce that Kurt Stein has decided to not renew his contract at Blackhawk. Kurt will continue to be on the job through the summer and is working hard to deliver several major projects before leaving the position. He is looking forward to facilitating a smooth transition to our next manager and to ensuring many future seasons of successful snow. Additionally, we are happy to say the club will continue to be able to put Kurt's knowledge, skill, and enthusiasm to good use since he plans to remain an active volunteer going forward. Please join us in thanking Kurt for his efforts over the last 2 years and in keeping the club running smoothly through all seasons. The Board is exploring various alternatives for Kurt's replacement and welcome your suggestions or recommendations. Contact us at Board@blackhawkskiclub.org